

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus ~~for operable in a system including a multiplicity of said broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatuses and a notification station, the apparatuses being operable to transmit to the notification station, for acquiring selection history information of broadcast programs selected out of broadcast programs of a plurality of channels, comprising:~~

storage means for storing selection information of said selected broadcast programs at predetermined acquisition times;

and

transmission means for transmitting said selection history information which is composed of a plurality of pieces of said selection information stored at a plurality of said acquisition times, to ~~a~~ the notification destination at a transmission timing assigned at random in accordance with an intrinsic random number.

33. (previously presented) A broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus for acquiring selection history information of broadcast programs selected out of broadcast programs of a plurality of channels, comprising:

storage means for storing selection information of said selected broadcast programs at predetermined acquisition times; and

transmission means for transmitting said selection history information which is composed of a plurality of pieces of said selection information stored at a plurality of said acquisition

times, to a notification destination at an intrinsically-assigned predetermined transmission timing, wherein

said transmission means transmits said selection history information through a predetermined telephone line, and decides said predetermined transmission timing based on a telephone number assigned to said telephone line.

34. (cancelled)

35. (cancelled)

36. (previously presented) The broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus according to claim 32, wherein

said selection information is composed of channel number information of said selected broadcast programs and time information showing the time when said broadcast programs are selected.

37. (previously presented) The broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus according to claim 32, wherein

said selection history information includes an identification number intrinsically assigned to said broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus.

38. (previously presented) The broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus according to claim 32, wherein

when transmitting said selection history information to said notification destination through a predetermined line at said transmission timing, said broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus changes the setting of said predetermined acquisition times and/or the setting of said

transmission timing based on a change command transmitted from said notification destination through said line.

39. (cancelled).

40. (currently amended) A broadcast-program selection history information acquisition method of acquiring selection history information of broadcast programs selected out of broadcast programs of a plurality of channels, comprising the steps of:

providing a multiplicity of broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatuses;

storing selection information of said selected broadcast programs at predetermined acquisition times by said apparatuses;
and

transmitting said selection history information which is composed of a plurality of pieces of said selection information stored at a plurality of said acquisition times from said apparatuses to a notification station at a transmission timing assigned at random in accordance with an intrinsic random number.

41. (previously presented) A broadcast-program selection history information acquisition method of acquiring selection history information of broadcast programs selected out of broadcast programs of a plurality of channels, comprising the steps of:

storing selection information of said selected broadcast programs at predetermined acquisition times; and

transmitting said selection history information which is composed of a plurality of pieces of said selection information stored at a plurality of said acquisition times at an

intrinsically-assigned predetermined transmission timing, wherein

said broadcast-program selection history information acquisition method transmits said selection history information through a predetermined telephone line, and decides said predetermined transmission timing based on a telephone number assigned to said telephone line.

42. (cancelled).

43. (previously presented) The broadcast-program selection history information acquisition method according to claim 40, wherein

said selection information is composed of channel number information of said selected broadcast programs and time information showing the times when said broadcast programs are selected.

44. (previously presented) The broadcast-program selection history information acquisition method according to claim 40, wherein

said selection history information includes an identification number intrinsically assigned to said broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus.

45. (previously presented) The broadcast-program selection history information acquisition method according to claim 40, wherein

when transmitting said selection history information to said notification destination through a predetermined line at said transmission timing, said broadcast-program selection history information acquisition method changes the setting of said predetermined acquisition times and/or the setting of said transmission timing based on a change command transmitted from said notification destination through said line.

46. (cancelled)

47. (currently amended) Apparatus for use in a system including a multiplicity of said broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatuses and a notification station, the apparatuses being operable to transmit to the notification station, for use in acquiring broadcast-program selection history information, the apparatus comprising:

a front end section for receiving a signal and providing therefrom a selected broadcast program;

a memory for storing selection information associated with the selected broadcast program;

a random number generator; and

a transmitter for transmitting a signal representative of audience rating data based on the stored selection information to the notification station, wherein the signal is transmitted as a function of a random number generated by the random number generator.

48. (new) A broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said transmission means is operable to transmit a header when transmitting said selection history information, said header including an identification number, said identification number including a telephone number belonging to a user of said apparatus.

49. (new) A broadcast-program selection history information acquisition method according to claim 40, further comprising transmitting a header when transmitting said selection history information, said header including an identification number, said identification number including a telephone number belonging to a user of said apparatus.

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50. (new) A broadcast-program selection history information acquisition apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said transmission means is operable to transmit a header when transmitting said selection history information, said header including an identification number, said identification number including a telephone number belonging to a user of said apparatus.
